

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR THE DECEMBER 17 ENERGY COUNCIL

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 9759 B. EC BRUSSELS 9443

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1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO VANDEN ABEELE IN SIMONET'S CABINET,

THE AENDA FOR THE EC ENERGU COUNCIL ON DEMEMBER 17 WILL BE VERY LIMITED AND A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WILL BE HELD OVER FOR A SECOND ENERGU COUCIL TO BE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY. THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEM ON THE DECEMBER 17 AGENDA WILL BE THE PAPER ON OBJECTIVES FOR 1985 WHICH, IF APPROVED, WOULD PROVIDE A SOUND BASE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. SIMONET WILL BE THE COMMISSION'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE DECEMBER 19 IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION VIC PRESIDENT SIMONET'S DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET VANDEN ABEELE, SIMONET SPENT DECEMBER 12 IN PARIS DISCUSSUING THE DECEMBER 17 EC ENERGY COUNCIL WITH FRENCH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY D'ORNANO, WHO WILL CHAIR THE MEETING. VANDEN ABEELE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME. THE SUMMIT, WHILE IT HAD NOT HURT, HAD CERTAINLY NOT HEOPED BY SIMPLY PAPERING OVER THE DIFFERENCES. IF, AS HE SUPPOSES, A COMPROMISE ON THE JAFOR EXTERNAL ISSUES COMES OUT OF THE MARTINIQUE MEETING, IT SHOULD THEORETICALLY BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS ON A COMMUNITY INTERNAL ENERGY POLICY ON THE 17TH. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, DIFFERENCES ON COMMUNITY INTERNAL POLICY WHICH VANDEN ABEELE BELIEVES WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. VANDEN ABEELE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED, THEREFORE, TO LIMIT THE AGENDA FOR THE ENERGY COUNCIL, HOLDING OVER A NUMBER OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL PAPERS--ELECTRICITY, COAL, HYDROCARBONS--FOR A SECOND COUNCIL TO BE HELD SOMETIME IN JANUARY.

3. ASIDE FROM APPROVAL WITHOUT DEBATE OF SOME VERY MINOR MATTERS, THE AGENDA ON THE 17TH WILL BE LIMITED TO THE DISCUSSION OF TWO PAPERS, THE "DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF ENREGY" AND THE "OBJECTIVES FOR 1985" PAPER REF B. HE EXPECTS THE RATIONAL USE PAPER TO BE APPROVED WITH LITTLE OR NO DEBATE. THE OBJECTIVES PAPER, HOWEVER, IS ANOTHER MATTER. IF APPROVED, IT WOULD BE, IN VANDEN ABEELE'S VIEW, A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS A COMMUNITY PROGRAM. SO FAR, DISCUSSION IN THE COREPER AND THE ENERGY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INCONCLUSIVE WITH DELEGATIONS RELUCTANT TO MAKE COMMITMENTS.

4. VANDEN ABEELE IS HOPEFUL THAT BETWEEN NOW AND THE 17TH ACTIONS TAKEN OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK (READ "AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARGINIQUE") WILL HELP CREATE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL NEEDED FOR THE MEMBER STATES TO MAKE THE NECESSARY COMMITMENTS. HE BELIEVES THIS WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT FOR THE UK. THE COREPER IS DISCUSSION THESE PAPERS TODEY, DECEMBEF 12, AND THE ENERGY COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO DEAL WITH THEM TOMORROW. VANDEN ABEELE SAYS SIMONET HAS CALLED FOR A RESTRICTED SESSION (ONE REPRESENTATIVE PER DELEGATION) OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 13TH, AND HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE SITUATION

WILL BE CLARIFIED AT THAT MEETING.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE WORK OF THE IEA REFTEL A, VANDEN ABEELE SAID THAT SIMONET HIMSELF
WOULD ATTEND THE GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 19.
GREENWALD

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